From: The IACP
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Monday, July 15, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

Ninth Circuit Rules Administration Can Consider Police Cooperation In Awarding Grants

Bloomberg (7/12, Pettersson) reports that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday ruled that the Justice Department "can take into account the cooperation of local police departments on immigration enforcement when awarding federal grants." Bloomberg says that while the City of Los Angeles "sued in 2017 to prevent" the Trump Administration "from using the grants to encourage local law enforcement to help with efforts to crack down on illegal immigration," the Ninth Circuit judges ruled two-to-one that the Justice Department's grant process "encourages, but does not coerce, a local police department to cooperate on immigration enforcement. The department also didn't act arbitrarily or capriciously when it decided to give extra points to grant applicants that adopted an illegal-immigration focus, according to the ruling."

Barr Gets Look At Programs Pertaining To First Step Act

The AP (7/13, Balsamo) reports 2,200 federal inmates are to be released on Friday under the First Step Act, which President Trump signed into law last year. Among other things, the measure "encourages inmates to participate in programs designed to reduce the risk of recidivism, with credits that can be used to gain an earlier release." Attorney General Barr last week visited Edgefield, "a facility with a medium-security prison and minimum-security camp," and "took a firsthand look at some of the programs in place, from computer skills to cooking, auto mechanic training and factory work." The Justice Department has been striving to comply with "the deadlines set by Congress for the First Step Act and is expected to unveil a risk-assessment tool this week that will help to evaluate federal inmates and ultimately could speed up their release." According to Barr, both the Bureau of Prisons and the Justice Department are "all in in terms of making it work."

House Passes 9/11 Victims' Fund Bill

The AP (7/12, Daly) reports that the House voted 402-12 on Friday in favor of a bill "ensuring that a victims compensation fund for the Sept. 11 attacks never runs out of money." According to the AP, "Lawmakers from both parties hailed the House vote, which comes a month after comedian Jon Stewart sharply criticized Congress for failing to act." The AP says Speaker Pelosi and others "credited Stewart for raising the profile of the issue, which has lingered on Capitol Hill for years."

The Washington Post (7/12, Barrett) reports that the legislation "was amended days ago to honor Luis Alvarez, a New York Police Department first responder who told lawmakers on June 11: 'You all said you would never forget. Well, I'm here to make sure that you don't.' He died less than three weeks later." The Post says the fund "provides money to those who have contracted diseases that have been linked to exposure to toxic debris in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks."

The New York Times (7/12, Davis) says the passage of the bill in the House "sends it to the Republican-led Senate, where" Senate Majority Leader McConnell "has said he would try to bring it up this month before the chamber adjourns for its summer recess. 'Nothing about our shared goal to provide for these heroes is remotely partisan,' Mr. McConnell said in a statement on Friday that called the Sept. 11 emergency workers 'the very definition of American heroes and patriots.'"

McConnell added, “We will consider this important legislation soon.”

Opioid Users Who Get Treatment May Be Less Likely To Have Police Encounters, Be Charged With Crimes, Study Indicates

Reuters (7/12, Crist) reported, “Opioid users who get treatment for their drug dependency are less likely to have police encounters or to be charged with crimes,” research indicated. The 10,744-participant study revealed that “treatment – which can include methadone, buprenorphine or buprenorphine-naloxone – also delayed the time to a first criminal charge, particularly when users spent more continuous time in a treatment program.” Over time, however, “the benefit of medication dwindled...and when users dropped in and out of treatment,” the study found. The findings were published in the July issue of The Lancet Public Health. According to Reuters, the co-author of an accompanying comment observed that the study “clarifies that the association between treatment and crime is not straightforward.”

North Carolina Governor Signs Bill Toughening Punishment For Assault On Law Enforcement Officer

The AP (7/12) reports, “North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper has signed legislation that...increases prison time for someone who uses a gun to assault a law enforcement officer.” According to the AP, “One measure signed on Thursday will more than double the minimum prison sentence to roughly three years for someone convicted of a firearm-related assault on a police, correctional, probation or parole officer. Such crimes will become a more severe felony starting Dec. 1.”

New Zealand Gun Owners Turn Over Weapons For Cash

The AP (7/13, Perry) reports from Wellington, New Zealand, “Dozens of Christchurch gun owners on Saturday handed over their weapons in exchange for money, in the first of more than 250 planned buyback events around New Zealand after the government outlawed many types of semi-automatics.” According to the AP, “Police said they paid more than 430,000 New Zealand dollars ($288,000) to 169 gun owners during the event.” The money “was paid directly into the bank accounts of gun owners.” New Zealand lawmakers in April “rushed through new legislation to ban so-called military-style weapons after a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques in March,” and “the government has set aside more than NZ$200 million to buy back weapons such as AR-15 style rifles, although many gun owners remain unhappy with the compensation on offer.”

Highly visible truck and bus traffic enforcement is a proven and effective countermeasure for local, and state traffic safety programs. On July 18, in Olympia, WA, and July 19, in Salem, OR, the IACP, with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), will host a Large Truck and Bus Traffic Enforcement training for local and state law enforcement officers. The training provides officers with strategies and procedures to safely and effectively conduct truck and bus vehicle stops.

Register now for Olympia!

Register now for Salem!

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CRIME & DRUGS

Operation Targeting Violent Criminals In Washington State Nets 69 Arrests Since Mid-June

KAPP-TV Yakima, WA (7/12, Mann) reports from Yakima County, Washington, “A multi-agency effort targeting violent offenders in Yakima County netted 69 arrests in five weeks, the U.S. Marshals Service and Yakima Police Department announced Friday.” According to KAPP-TV, “More than a dozen local, state and federal agencies joined together to initiate Operation Invictus in mid-June,” and “Yakima Police Chief Matt Murray said the idea is to combine the resources, knowledge and expertise of various agencies to make communities safer by taking violent criminals off the streets. ‘In any society, there’s a small percentage of people who are really causing the majority of the problems and policing, we know that if we focus on that, we can really make a difference in violent crime,’ said Murray.” Murray “said the operation will be in effect all summer long.”

Knife Crime On The Rise In Wales

BBC News Online (UK) (7/15) reports, "Teenagers in Wales are being drawn into knife crime, with blades being found in playgrounds, police say." BBC News adds, "Boys as young as 15 are carrying weapons after being groomed to become drug dealers, officers said," and "the number of offences involving knives has gone up more than 80% across Wales in the past decade, with two fatal stabbings in the last year." According to BBC News, "Across Wales, in 2011 there were 741 incidents involving knives compared to 1,353 in 2018 – an increase of 83%," and "the number of offences involving a knife dealt with by South Wales Police has almost doubled, from 382 in 2011 to 724 in 2018. Year-on-year, the offences have risen steeply, from 591 in 2017 to 724 in 2018." Undercover police officers "working as part of Operation Sceptre – South Wales Police's response to the increased use of weapons – told BBC Wales Investigates the presence of 'county lines' gangs, who move drugs from major cities into other areas, is pushing up the numbers of people carrying knives."

FBI Task Force Probe Nets 25 Narcotics Arrests In Connecticut, Massachusetts

The New Rochelle (NY) Daily Voice (7/13, Failla) reports, "An FBI task force investigation into the distribution of cocaine and heroin in Connecticut and Massachusetts led to drug distribution charges for 25 suspected gang members who ran an elaborate drug trafficking ring." According to the Daily Voice, "An investigation was launched by the FBI's New Haven Safe Streets/Gang Task Force earlier this year targeting drug traffickers and related acts of violence by members and former members of the 'Island Brothers' street gang. 'Today's takedown is yet another example of our great working relationship with the New Haven Police Department and all of our law enforcement partners across the state,' said FBI Special Agent in Charge Brian Turner."

ALSO IN THE NEWS

NYTimes Profiles Young Afghan General Seeking To Reform Police Force

The New York Times (7/12, Gibbons-Neff) profiles Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Security Brig. Gen. Khoshal Sadat, who is "a leader among the first generation of homegrown Afghan generals to emerge from the American training program...after the 2001 invasion." The commander of American forces in Afghanistan, Gen. Austin Miller said in a statement that Sadat "represents a new generation of Afghan leadership" According to the Times, Sadat's accomplishments include serving as aide-de-camp in 2009 to Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who was then the top American commander in Afghanistan. The Times makes note of Sadat's "can-do attitude and willingness to lead from the front," but also highlights the challenges that Sadat faces including reforming a police force that is "riddled with corruption and savaged almost daily by Taliban attacks and casualties," which "many have deemed unfixable."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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- **Human Remains Found, Man Arrested In Search For Missing Woman Savannah Spurlock, Authorities Say**
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